PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION

"Not to be ministered unto, but to minister"

WAR SUFFERERS' RELIEF BULLETIN

October, 1946 Vol. II No. 8

The Material Aid Program

In This Issue

There are at least three phases of our Mennonite relief witness. Considerable money is necessary to carry on a relief program in various foreign countries, but cash alone cannot convey the fullest sense of our concern. Personnel is necessary to administer, distribute, and to minister to the suffering in a Christian way, but workers cannot feed the hungry and clothe the naked unless they have the materials with which to work. The third phase of our relief work which we mention is a term which gradually slipped into our vocabulary—material aid. Material aid means what the term implies—the bare necessities of life as food and clothing.

This issue is largely devoted to the material aid aspect of our relief work. During the year ending September 1, approximately 7,000 tons of food and clothing have been shipped by the Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches in United States and Canada through the M.C.C. This represents a voluntary service program in a very real sense. This is the story of women canning over hot stoves, of sewing circles and their work, of city and rural relief projects of all kinds, of portable and community canning projects, of God's acre, of tithing, of children's relief projects, of long hours at collection centers, of relief committee meetings and a host of other tasks performed quietly and cheerfully. Only a few of the many interesting community canning projects throughout the country are mentioned in this issue. Stories of other community projects will appear in future issues as they are received. Certainly you also serve who stay at home and give of your material goods and of your service, for without it the relief program could not operate.

The Need Continues

The world today is filled with people who are wounded in body and mind. According to the July military report covering the American zone, the average weight of the German civilian has dropped to the lowest point since the occupation began. "The nutritional status in Germany has declined so much that morbidity and mortality from infectious diseases have resulted . . . most important the amount of food available is still below the minimum subsistence level." Our Mennonite brethren are suffering along with millions of others. Conditions have improved in some countries while in others people are suffering severely because of lack of food and clothing.

When Christians sense great suffering—they feel impelled to minister in the spirit of Christ. The New Testament teaches concern for suffering as a test of love. The principles of stewardship if accepted imply sharing in a very real way. Is such a program worth all the hard work and sacrifice necessary to carry it on? Are we convinced that this is the service the Lord has called us to perform in this hour? Do we see through this an opportunity to keep alive the spirit of love and good will in this dark period? Do we believe that in such a program motivated by Christian love lies one of the most powerful weapons to remove hate, bitterness, and hopelessness? If our answer is "Yes" to these questions, then indeed the program must go on.

"For I mean not that other men be

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Lancaster Conference Food for Relief

(The writer, Ira S. Hess, is chairman of the Lancaster County Mennonite Food for Relief Program and gives here a concise description of the origin and growth of the canning project which originated in the fall of 1945. This committee is making plans for another canning project.

"The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." I am glad to give a report of a work which I believe to be the part of a believer in Christ. It has grown from naught or nothing until its worth in dollars grew to $183,985.88 plus.

A committee was organized to: (1) Locate collection centers and have person in charge; (2) Arrange for jars and supplies; (3) Help for packing for shipment; (4) Make contacts for information and promote interest. Of course, no one thought of a treasury then. There being five committee members, we divided the Lancaster Conference district in five sections as to bishops. Here is a resolution by the Board of Bishops: "It was decided that the canning committee appointed by the direction of the Bishop Board be responsible not only for the canning program, but that they also be responsible to discover other projects and facilities of relief for our people." About this time the Akron office contacted the Glicks about canning meat at their cannery. Brother Snyder asked if we would be interested in this project. If so, we should call a meeting to look into this. We had a meeting and found that the Glicks had agreed to give the use of their cannery. To set up a canning outfit meant a lot of work and expense—retorts, large kettles, tubs, buckets, dishpans, knives, saws, tracks and hooks, scalding troughs, chassis, and all that goes with a butchering outfit. And if anyone had occasion to buy a tub, you might have a faint idea what it meant to get all that was needed at the cannery.

First we thought of canning chicken. You who attended market know that your trucks and tables were too small to furnish enough dressed fowl for your market and if you were on the other side of the table chances were you went home without.

In my section, well, most people had no hogs and if you wanted beef you had to have red points. Besides this there were natural laws to be obeyed. Hogs and beef must be produced, slaughtered, and processed on the farm for export or have Federal inspection. Well, Federal inspection was out in our work and worst of all not a cent of money to lay our hands on.

About the middle of October each committeeman was instructed to contact every congregation in his district and have listed what they were moved to give for relief, such as dressed chicken, hogs, beeves, bushels wheat, pounds flour, garden tools, and kitchen utensils. The ministers lifted an offering in the church and Sunday schools for relief and also asked how much volunteer help could be called on. At this point things began to move—dressed chicken, hogs, beeves, wheat, flour, and money, and help seemed to come in every way. I shall never forget about the first of November I visited a friend in Maugansville, who told me about the work being accomplished by the Mennonite Brethren in Washington County, Maryland. From 40 to 80 brethren and sisters would gather at a cannery and can fruit, vegetables, and chicken on one day. I wondered, can this be done in Lancaster County?

We started canning chicken on November 7. On the eighth we discovered that we were in need of another 150-gallon kettle. On Friday, November 9, about 10:00 Brother Daniel Glick called the Pennsylvania Equipment Company. A little later they called back saying that since we wanted this kettle for relief, it could be had at greatly reduced price at once. Saturday morning, November 10, about daylight the kettle arrived and by evening it was set and all ready to go. Then we found that we could handle about 1,000 to 1,200 chickens per day. Volunteer help was plenty—50 to 60 brethren and sisters a day. People heard of this. By December we had to refuse chicken and take to hogs.

At this time I want to call attention as to how the Lord provided in this work. There were hogs offered aplenty. But where were the men that would stand over a scalding trough and dress 15 to 30 hogs a day for a month or more? It was

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at this time that Brother Elmer and Weaver Martin heard of this canning meat. They said, "Let us help in this work. Bring your hogs to our place of business and we will dehair and dress them for you." Of course, pork not being produced and dressed on the farm had to be canned as pork and beans. About this time approximately 80,000 pounds of army and navy beans arrived at East Petersburg warehouse. So we had pork and beans to can. Steers were slaughtered at the cannery. The young man who was to do this work was not released. So each one of the committee had to find a brother on the day that he supplied help. Well, there were brothers and aplenty of them.

A description of the work in the cannery: All meat was pre-heated for 30 minutes, then it was put in No. 10 tin cans and sealed. Later these cans were put in the pressure cooker and boiled for three hours and twenty minutes with 15 pounds pressure. This part of the canning had to be done with care lest the cans would bulge and the whole batch be ruined. Cans were allowed to stand about 10 days to see if everything was all right. The spirit manifested about the cannery: When folks would arrive in the morning everybody was eager to work and all day long everybody was happy.

Above the tables where the work was being done you could see the motto on the wall, "In the name of Christ." Every can was labeled, "In the name of Christ," also, what the can contained and by what congregation and the name of the bishop who donated to the work. Cases when ready for shipment were also labeled this way. So you see that the whole plan was not to feed the temple body alone, but that the Gospel be sent to dying souls of men.

We closed the cannery March 1 after operating 75 days with about 50 volunteer helpers a day with a total of 3,800 people working in this period of time with not a single accident but a few slight hand cuts. Animals slaughtered: donated cattle, 80; purchased cattle, 231; total, 311. Hogs donated, 300; purchased hogs, 379; total, 679. Fowls including ducks and turkey, 20,529. Number of cans: fowls, 9,036; pork and beans, 16,780; fats, 1,264; beef, 21,703; total, 48,783.

Our entire setup in the canning was: a committee, a chairman, a secretary, and a treasurer. As stated all money was handled by Brother Sem Eby and Brother John Bomberger. We set up a Glick's farms fund food for relief with canning

HOW CAN I?

How can I kill a man that God has made?
How can I snuff out the light that He has lit?
How can I still the tongue that He has loosed?
How can I consign to clay the temple of the Holy Ghost?
How can I damn to dust that which breathes the breath of life?
How can I kill when God says, "Love"?

—Stanley Shenk.

project. As to who envisioned this program for relief, taking the whole program in consideration, I would say we cannot give credit to any single person or to a group of persons. But rather give credit to God who through Christ and the Holy Spirit working in lives of His children has brought about this work for relief.

As to publicity, we never solicited publicity. "A city that is built on a hill cannot be hid." The reporter of the **Lancaster Intelligencer** called for information. The **Intelligencer** ran an article for three or four days in their paper. The **Philadelphia Evening Bulletin** also took pictures and got some information and ran a number of articles in their paper. The Robert Saint John, a national broadcaster on mutual network, broadcast this work of the Mennonites over the entire United States. Some folk may object to this and where the broadcaster got his information, I cannot tell. But it is this about it: how can we provoke others to good works unless they have information?

MATERIAL AID PROGRAM

(Continued from first page)

eased and ye burdened. But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want, that there may be equality" (II Cor. 8:13, 14).

Christ of the Manger
Before whose anguished eyes
Black clouds of childish hunger
From a million altars rise,
Until these little ones are fed
We cannot say,
We dare not pray,
"Give us this day our daily bread."

—A C.P.S. man.

Our Collection Centers

In 1945, along with the C.P.S. Canning Program, a new program of home canning for the relief of war sufferers was inaugurated. Up to this time canned goods had been collected at local collection centers and then transported to the various C.P.S. camps. With the beginning of the dual program, it was necessary to provide a place where these foods could be packed for overseas shipment. Accordingly, in October of 1945, a packing warehouse was opened at East Petersburg, Pennsylvania. About this time Selective Service approved the use of a limited number of C.P.S. men in the materials for relief program. Five C.P.S. men were assigned to the East Petersburg warehouse to begin the packing there.

The opening and operation of this warehouse would have been impossible had it not been for the help and co-operation of local churches. Many families opened their homes to board the C.P.S. men, often doing it without charge, or at only a nominal fee. Oftentimes, a group of men from the surrounding community would work for a day at the warehouse, helping to pack the increasing flow of canned foods which was pouring in.

The expansion of the program required the purchase of mobile units to gather the food from local collection centers to the central warehouse. Two tractors and semi-trailer outfits were purchased for this purpose. About February 1, 1946, a large three-story warehouse was rented at Silver Springs.

Lancaster County

A breakdown of the foods packed in the Lancaster County warehouse shows how generously people have been moved to give of their material goods. To date in this one warehouse 686 tons, representing approximately 650,000 quarts of canned vegetables, meats, and fruits, have been packed for final shipment. This total includes food canned in both glass and tin, and small amounts of dried fruits and vegetables. A total of 27,962 lbs. of tools and household utensils have also been packed here.

Kalona

At the beginning of the relief canning program, all final packing was done in Pennsylvania. Two large collection centers, at Kalona, Iowa, and Goshen, Indiana, each shipped several carloads by rail to be processed at Silver Springs. This involved extra handling. As a result, the Kalona collection center was set up to pack goods for overseas shipment. Two C.P.S. men constituted the main working force there. Again it was community co-operation and help which made it possible for the work to get under way. Although perhaps not realizing the value of their work, these people were making as real a contribution to the relief program as those distributing the goods overseas.

To date a total of four carloads of miscellaneous canned foods have been shipped from the Kalona warehouse. These were all destined for the American-Occupied Zone of Germany. These carloads totaled 237,207 pounds of canned foods equaling approximately 115,000 quarts.

Goshen

In July, 1946, a C.P.S. man was sent to Goshen to set up packing facilities there. Due to limited space only goods canned in tin are packed at this place. All goods packed in glass which are brought to this center are still transported to the eastern warehouse via M.C.C. truck. To date a total of 27,967 tins of food have been packed at the Goshen warehouse.

Newton

On September 10, 1946, a new food warehouse was opened in Newton, Kansas, to replace the Lehigh center and avoid congestion at the Kalona warehouse. The new food warehouse operates in connection with the clothing center located in Newton. Two C.P.S. workers have been assigned there. Another factor warranting the necessity of a warehouse at Newton was the construction of a portable cannery by the Kansas churches. Most of the foods canned by this cannery will be channeled through the Newton warehouse.

West Coast

Up to this time we have spoken only of activity in Eastern United States and the Middle West. There are also large groups of our people located near the West Coast. In order to provide some channel for them to give of their material goods, a combination food warehouse and clothing center was opened in April of 1946 at Reedley, California. At the time of this writing, the food which has been col-

The food warehouse at Silver Springs, Pennsylvania. Two semi-trailers are constantly busy hauling food from community centers to this and other packing warehouses.

lected there is en route to New York. This comprises a carload of 27 tons. The final destination of this shipment will be Northern Italy.

* * *

Up to this time we have been speaking mainly of the warehouses, their operation, and how they were set up. In this short space it is impossible to mention the work of hundreds, yes, even thousands of voluntary workers who made this expanding program possible. Perhaps they worked at a local collection center helping load the contributed foods. Perhaps they spent a day in a packing warehouse. Perhaps they took a C.P.S. man into their home, treating him like one of their own. Perhaps they filled the M.C.C. truck with gas as part of their gift, or maybe it was a grease job. These acts and many others form an unsung but very essential part of this program.

Nor have we mentioned any of the problems involved after the foods were once packed ready for shipment. In the first place, many commodities could not be exported without special licensing by the Department of Commerce. Then, too, some other foods, such as raisins, prunes, dry beans, and certain canned vegetables, required refunds of subsidy payments before they could be exported. At times it seemed as though some obstacles were insurmountable but the way was always opened. Indeed it seemed as though a providential hand had unlocked the door.

Since the first assignment of C.P.S. men to work in this program, a total of 65 assignees have given of their labors. At the present time a total of 26 C.P.S. men are being used. This disposition is as follows: Silver Springs, Pa., 4; Ephrata, Pa., 5; Virginia Portable Cannery, 3; Goshen, Indiana, 1; Kalona, Iowa, 1; Newton, Kansas, clothing center, 1; Newton, Kansas, food warehouse, 2; Reedley, California, 1; Truck-drivers, 4; Akron office, 3.

From a small beginning this program has grown to a scope far broader and wider than any of us anticipated. The united efforts of a people working for a common cause have brought forth a marvelous outpouring of material goods for the relief of suffering humanity. Surely the Lord's blessing has manifested itself upon this expression of Christian love.—Wayne Kempf.

The Kansas Cannery

In reviewing past events in this relief effort there are many times in which the leading of the Lord is clearly discernible. One particular instance that comes to my mind is the development of a portable cannery in the west.

Last spring the people in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Nebraska, began to plan ways and means of working more effectively. They wanted to put their fruits, vegetables, and meats in tin cans, but had no facilities at their disposal. They heard that a portable unit had been built and successfully operated in the east and decided to undertake the construction of one themselves.

At first they thought they could build a small unit for about $500. When the idea was at first mentioned, it was hardly considered. Folks had never heard of a "portable" cannery. Some did become interested and after investigation decided that it could be done in that section. Manufacturers of canning equipment were contacted and finally a good part of the equipment was secured. One very essential part, the boiler, was found to be among the so-called critical items—very hard to obtain. The manufacturers said that it would be at least several months before they could deliver one. In the meantime, one of the local men decided to call a foundry in Hutchinson and found that they were building one just then and that it had not been sold as yet.

And then the job of building it. Everyone was very busy with their farming and other businesses. A C.P.S. man, Evan Brenneman, was asked to help with the construction of the unit, and he with the assistance of Adan Holdeman, local shopman, have the cannery now ready for operation.

People from all over this area have heard of the cannery and now want to use it to can for relief. It was built by the Missouri-Kansas Conference of the Old Mennonites, but will be available to any one who wishes to use it for relief canning. There will probably be two C.P.S. men with it to supervise the operations of the unit.

While this cannery was being built, a brother from considerable distance heard of it and decided to see if he could find out more about it. He did not know where to go or whom to contact, but since he had heard that it was being built in the vicinity of Hesston, he drove to Hesston to try to get information. He stopped in at the print shop of Jess Kauffman, who was in charge of the building of the cannery, and asked if he knew where to direct him so that he could find out more about this project. Jess told the man that he was the man he had been looking for. The man's countenance lit up and he said, "Before I left this evening I prayed the Lord that He would send me to the right man." When he left he had learned about the canner and was anxious to arrange for the use of it.

Every day brings letters from people who want to use it and at this writing it is booked up far in advance.—Wayne Hennard.

From Virginia

Late last fall (1945) a portable canner, built by the Shenandoah Equipment Company, Harrisonburg, Virginia, was put into operation under the supervision of the Virginia Mission Board. The building of this canner was to a large extent an experiment but the results obtained were beyond all expectation. During the season approximately 250 hogs and cattle were processed in addition to thousands of cans of soup, vegetables, and fruit. Three C.P.S. men were assigned to help with this work and were assisted by splendid volunteer help which came in as the canner went from one community to another.

The canner has recently been fitted with equipment for the boiling of apple butter. In view of the prospects for a large apple crop a goal has been set for 8,000 gallons of apple butter. Plans have also been made to continue the canning of meat.

During the spring and summer several Sunday-school classes sponsored a project raising beans and corn, the proceeds of which are to be used for relief. This proved to be a very fine project.

At this writing special effort is being put forth to collect blankets for German refugees and with the present response we are confident that a sizable quantity will be ready for shipment soon.

Since the beginning of the relief program the Virginia Conference has contributed nearly eight carloads of relief goods in addition to the financial support of the general program. We feel sure that our people are interested in continuing to share their blessings with the unfortunate.—Lewis Strite.

Sixty-three thousand people on the isle of Walcheren each received ten pounds of flour and one-half pound of raisins. The same amount was distributed to twenty-five thousand on the isles of Schouewen en Duiveland, all in Holland.

RELIEF CLOTHING PROGRAM

Let us not forget the clothing aspect of the Material Aid Program. This part of the program has been in operation for a period of six years, receiving and packing an ever-increasing flow of new and used clothing and shoes as our people in the United States and Canada have been moved to share of their goods.

There are five clothing centers in operation at this time, three in the United States and two in Canada. The largest of these in terms of volume of clothing handled is located at Ephrata, Pennsylvania. At the present time five C.P.S. men are regularly employed there in addition to a number of other workers. The other Centers in the United States are located in Newton, Kansas, and Reedley, California. The two Canadian centers are at Kitchener, Ontario, and Winnipeg, Manitoba.

At these centers all clothing is sorted into different categories according to age groups, light or heavy clothing, and whether for men, women, or children. Each article is marked with a small sticker bearing the legend, "In the Name of Christ." The articles are then baled or boxed and are ready for overseas shipment. If we were to visit a center we might find a large group of volunteer workers doing mending or helping to pack clothing, shoes, or soap. The work of sewing circles and other like groups has contributed much to make this program possible.

From January 1, 1946, through October a total of 325 tons of clothing, bedding, and shoes have been shipped from the centers in the United States and Canada. The combined value of these shipments approximates $708,292.90.

Imagine the joy of a war refugee when he receives good, warm garments after wearing threadbare clothing until it could hardly be classified as clothing. Especially at this time when winter is drawing nigh does a gift of this kind bring an uplift in body and soul to those in need.

"For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat . . . Naked, and ye clothed me . . . Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:35-40.

Wheat Shipments

Among the larger divisions in the Food for Relief program has been the Wheat and Flour program. During the period between October 1, 1945, and May 1, 1946, or a period of seven months, 114 carloads or 71,478 bags of wheat and flour have been donated through the Mennonite Central Committee for relief purposes.

In some cases a special bag was designed containing the Mennonite emblem as well as the words, "In the Name of Christ," and similar printing. This printing was done in color on a plain white bag. This made a very neat looking bag which has been recognized in many parts of the world.

During the winter of 1945 it was very difficult to obtain shipping space on boats going to Europe. During this time the carloads of flour were allowed to accumulate in a warehouse at Baltimore, Maryland. At one time 31 carloads were stored in this warehouse awaiting shipping space. All of these carloads have since been shipped out.

The carloads of flour have been distributed to three countries in Europe. Holland has received 42 carloads, France has received 33 carloads, and Germany has received 39 carloads. Recently we have received contributions of eight carloads of flour and three carloads of wheat. These are not counted in the above total. There are indications of many more carloads in the making. A new project is that of sending cracked wheat to China. Arrangements have now been made whereby wheat may be sent to a mill in the midwest. This wheat will be ground into a specially prepared relief cereal. This cereal contains approximately 1,600 calories per pound and is made available to us at cost. This cereal has been highly recommended by other relief agencies and has proved itself as an emergency food for relief purposes.

It is certainly commendable to observe the way the Mennonite farmers and others have shared their bountiful harvests which the Lord has provided. From this unselfish sharing many will have bread to eat who otherwise would have starved. —Harold Swartzendruber, Shipper.

"The roots of the Mennonites run very deep in the suffering of Europe. Mennonites are on the march in many countries.'—M.R.Z.

Let's Witness Today

I read the question in his eyes even before he spoke, "Mr. Dijk, who are the Mennonites? What is your committee? Do you always work in this manner,—where—how long?"

We appreciate this opportunity and all join in the chat. We tell him of our heritage. We tell him of our faith. We tell him of our beliefs, our convictions, of our hope, and he listens attentively, absorbingly. "How long have you been working, and where?" We tell him of our clothing —of our food—of our reconstruction program. We tell him how we have in the last two months given ten pounds of flour and one-half pound of raisins to sixty-three thousand people on the isle of Walcheren, and twenty-five thousand on the isles of Schouewen en Duiveland. How we have given the same amount of flour to thirty thousand at Den Helder and twenty-five thousand in West Zeeuwsch Vlaanderen, and how we are now in the process of giving every one of the sixty thousand people in the Betuwe (the area between the Neder Rijn and the Waal Rivers at Arnhem and Nijmegen) the same amount of flour and one pound of prunes. We tell him of some of the places where we have distributed meat, beans, vegetables, and other foods. We tell him that we will keep on doing this as long as there is a definite need.

"Are there many of you here?"

We tell him that the same group goes out every Monday morning and comes back every Saturday night. But we do not tell him that we are often very glad when evening comes, because we try to hand out every pound of flour and every pound of fruit ourselves. Neither do we tell him that the flour seems to find its way to the very bottom of our lungs, and that any hopes we may have entertained of becoming opera singers have been buried for the present! He is sincere and genuine in his appreciation of the gift and also in his expression of thanks for the chat.

What motivates our giving? What motivates our service? Let us be honest. Is it always and only "The love of Christ constraineth us"? Or may there sometimes be found a wee bit of desire for recognition, for praise, for glory, for adventure?—Corney Dyck (Holland).

The failure to do good in the presence of human need is actually to do evil.